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NOTE ON THE HACHETTE ROUSSEAU

Another needless error in the Hachette edition of Rousseau's works calls for correction, since this most available edition is so widely used. In the *Lettre à d'Alembert* (I, 215), Rousseau discusses the *Misanthrope* of Molière; in a footnote he adds:

"Ajoutons le *Marchand de Londres*, pièce admirable, et dont la morale va plus directement au but qu'aucune pièce françoise que je connoisse."

The editor comments in this wise:

"Le titre de cette pièce en anglois est *Arden-Feversham*. Son auteur est le célèbre Lillo, dont Diderot s'est fait l'apologiste et l'imitateur."

There is here evident a confusion of two entirely distinct works of Lillo, the English title of the play praised by Rousseau being *The London Merchant*. The editor's error is the more disconcerting to the student of Diderot, in that he fails to find mention of Lillo's *Arden-Feversham* in Prof. Cru's admirable *Diderot and English Thought*, in which emphasis is correctly placed upon *The London Merchant*.

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Beowulf 62, ONCE MORE

In a note to ll. 1186-7 in the Chambers-Wyatt edition of the *Beowulf*, the editor, after citing Holthausen's quotation of the passage in the *Germania*, where Tacitus records the special regard in which a sister's son was held, objects that Hrothulf is the son not of Hrothgar's sister but of his brother, Halga. Evidently he does not regard Miss Clarke's hypothesis, that the mother of Hrothulf was Hrothgar's sister, as worthy of notice, even for refutation. Yet that hypothesis accords wel with the relations existing between Hrothgar and Hrothulf in the poem, and with Wealhtheow's evident anxiety for the future of her own children. I shoud not, however, hav recalled a theory which seems to hav won no support, wer it not that in a modest attempt of my own (*Mod. Lang. Notes*, xxviii, 149 ff.) to support that theory I had omitted one consideration, which I wish here to present. It is this: If, in the story as it came to the hands of the *Beowulf* poet, or in a text of the poem erlier than that we hav, an incestuous origin was indicated for Hrothulf at l. 62, the desire to avoid such a blot on the scutcheon